

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1-P

March 19, 2013

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**AMEND THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT LIST PURSUANT TO SECTION (3), SUBSECTION (d) OF THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITION OF 1996, ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT, REALLOCATE SPECIFIED FUNDS FROM THE 1992 PROPOSITION AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE LAND IN ESCONDIDO CANYON AND THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY OF CORNELL
(THIRD DISTRICT - 3 - VOTE)**

SUBJECT

These actions will allocate \$4,106,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District and \$200,295 in residual Specified Funds pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996, to enable the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to purchase a total of 611.99 acres in 34 parcels of land in Escondido Canyon and in the unincorporated community of Cornell.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed projects exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the projects consist of acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Amend the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's project list, most recently amended on August 4, 2012, to add the acquisition of 34 parcels of land in Escondido Canyon and the unincorporated community of Cornell in the Third Supervisorial District.

3. Allocate \$4,106,000 of Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for the acquisition of 525.6 acres of land in three parcels of land in the unincorporated community of Cornell.

4. Reallocate \$200,295 in residual Specified Funds allocated the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, pursuant to Section 8, Subsection C, Paragraph 3 of the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992, for a grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for the acquisition of 86.39 acres of land in 31 parcels in Escondido Canyon.

5. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, acting in his capacity as Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants for the acquisition of the 31 parcels of land in Escondido Canyon and the three parcels in Cornell to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, in the amount of \$4,306,295, when applicable conditions have been met and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, otherwise funds shall remain in their respective fund accounts.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will add an additional 34 parcels of land, totaling 611.99 acres in Escondido Canyon and the unincorporated community of Cornell to the Conservancy's (Conservancy) project list, allocate \$4,106,000 of Specified Excess Funds pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1996 and reallocate \$200,295 in residual Specified Funds pursuant to Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992, for the acquisition of these parcels to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

The proposed acquisition of 86.39 acres of land consists of the purchase of 31 parcels in the heart of the Escondido Canyon watershed and contains a long section of Escondido Creek. Escondido Creek flows year-round and the parcels offer deeply shaded stream canopy that supports an extensive riparian habitat providing habitat linkage connecting the Latigo, Escondido and Ramirez Canyon watersheds. The property features a network of existing roads with paved access both from Latigo Canyon Road and from Escondido Drive via Latigo Canyon Road in the Santa Monica Mountains. The project is funded with \$4,006,000 in Third Supervisorial District Proposition 62 funds and the \$200,295 in residual Specified 1992 Proposition funds recommended for reallocation from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a Project total budget of \$4,206,295.

The proposed acquisition of 525.6 acres of land, known as the Ladyface Mountain Acquisition, consists of the purchase of three parcels of land in the unincorporated community of Cornell. The property is located on the southern face of Ladyface Mountain forming part of the headwaters of Triunfo Creek, a tributary running into Malibu Creek. The property spans over 1.5 miles and connects the MRCA's Triunfo Canyon Park to Kanan Dume Road. The property provides key open space and habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains and its main dirt road is already listed as an unofficial trail by the National Park Service. The proposed acquisition would allow for a trail connection between the Zuma Ridge Trail and Westlake Village near the end of Triunfo Canyon Road. Total cost for the project is \$4,106,000 and will be funded entirely with the requested Specified Excess Funds.

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe

Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. The Conservancy and the MRCA meet this requirement.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Regional Park and Open Space District (Director), be authorized to award grants for the acquisition of parcels identified, and to administer the grants for grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, as well as grantee agreement with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, and to administer the grant under procedures previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by funding the acquisition of additional protected open space land in Escondido Canyon and the unincorporated community of Cornell in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$4,106,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space Districts' Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6 and \$200,295 is budgeted in the District's Assessment Fund HB7.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that funds provided to the Conservancy be expended "solely for projects approved by the Board, pursuant to such criteria as the Board may, in its discretion, adopt," provided that those projects are identified in the Conservancy's annual work program transmitted to the Governor and State Legislature and as may be amended from time to time, after noticed public hearings held in September of 2000.

The 1996 Proposition further provides that your Board may disapprove a project within the boundaries of a city only upon a finding that the acquisition or improvement may impact access to or use of a site identified or proposed for present or future sanitary landfill purposes. In addition, your Board previously has adopted procedural requirements requiring a review of proposed Conservancy projects relative to their impact on existing or proposed highways, and their consistency with General or Area Plans.

The proposed acquisition project meets the procedural requirements of the 1996 Proposition and has been reviewed in accordance with the Conservancy's revised Procedural Guide, adopted by your Board on June 17, 1997.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has found that the proposed acquisition of the properties would not negatively impact the County's solid waste management system (Attachment B).

DPW did, however, find in its review of the impact on any planned County roads or highways that one parcel submitted for its review requires additional feet of road right of way plus slope easement (Attachment B). Assessor Parcel No. 4461-034-001 fronts Escondido Drive, a local street with an existing 30 feet of road right of way and DPW recommends reserving 15 feet of additional right-of-way dedication plus additional with the recommended right-of-way dedication and slope easement.

The Department of Regional Planning (DRP) researched the list of proposed parcels for acquisition,

consulted with County Counsel and noted that the acquisition of the parcels is consistent with the goals and policies of the Coastal Plan and the North Area Plan. The DPR has no objection to the proposed action, (Attachment C.)

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded principally from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District from Excess Funds available for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The MRCA is the lead agency for the acquisition of the 31 parcels in Escondido Canyon and the three parcels in the unincorporated community of Cornell.

The proposed projects are categorically exempt from the CEQA according to Section 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed projects consist of acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Conservancy's Procedural Guide approved by your Board in 1997 and used since then for the administration of similar grant projects. The acquisition documentation requirements in the Procedural Guide be waived since they are inapplicable to the acquisition of tax-defaulted parcels. Prior to execution, the Grant Project Agreement will be reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Your Board's approval of these recommendations will authorize the Director to award grants to the MRCA for the acquisition of the parcels. It will have no impact on any other District-funded projects.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

3/19/2013

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:LB

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors

Escondido Canyon Acquisition

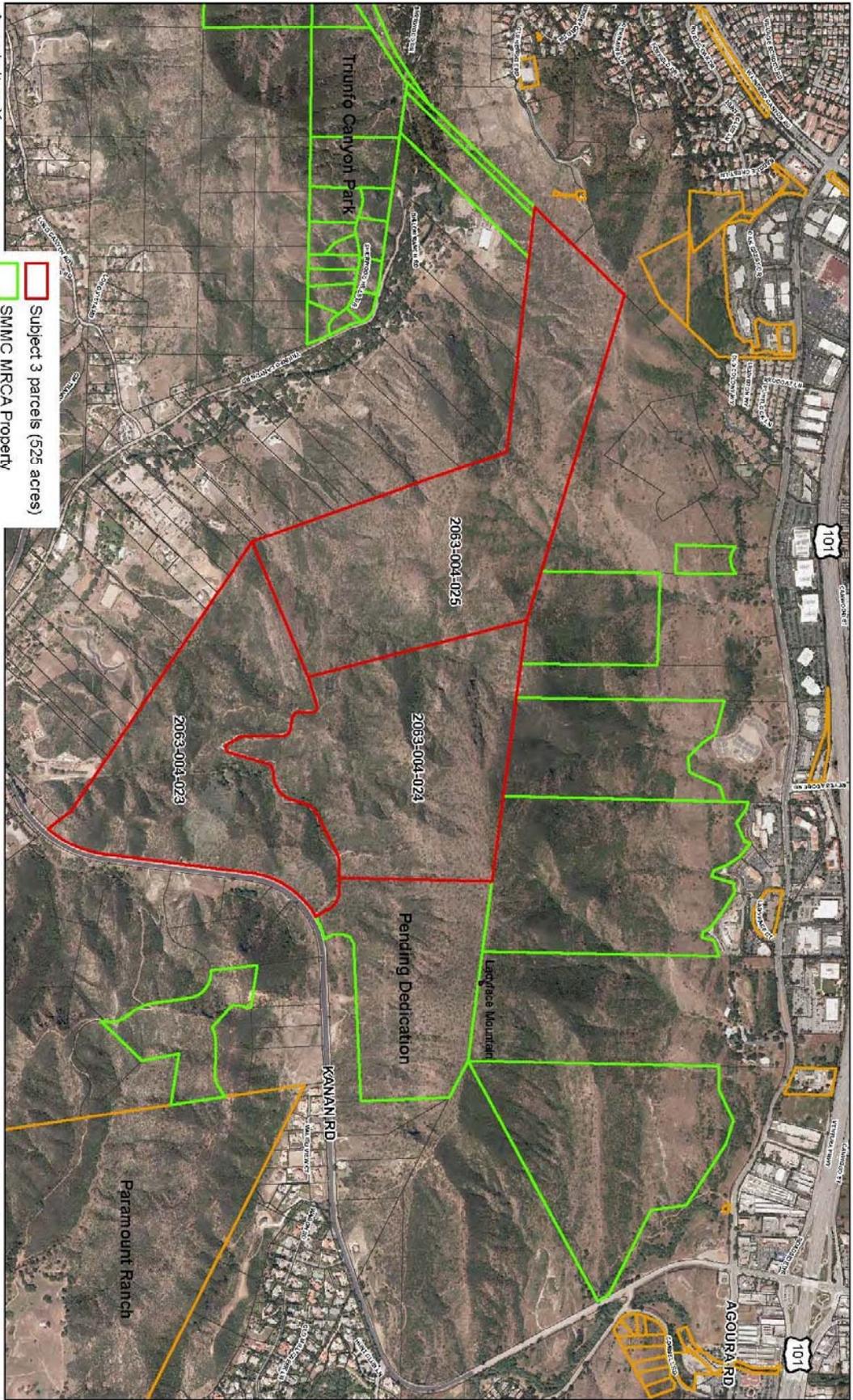
APN	Acreage	Funding Sources
4461-035-001	0.16	part of \$4,206,295
4461-035-004	0.25	part of \$4,206,295
4461-035-005	31.62	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-019	0.25	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-020	0.30	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-021	0.42	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-022	0.37	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-023	0.31	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-024	0.36	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-025	0.42	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-026	0.45	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-027	0.42	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-028	0.40	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-029	0.38	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-030	0.38	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-031	0.27	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-032	0.23	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-033	0.22	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-034	0.27	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-036	0.20	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-037	0.21	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-038	0.22	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-039	0.21	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-040	0.22	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-041	0.26	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-042	0.26	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-043	0.25	part of \$4,206,295
4461-036-044	0.59	part of \$4,206,295
4461-001-011	13.68	part of \$4,206,295
4465-004-021	19.33	part of \$4,206,295
4461-034-001	13.48	part of \$4,206,295
Total APNS=31	Total Acres=86.39	

Ladyface Mountain Acquisition

APN	Acreage	Funding Sources
2063-004-025	207.10	part of \$4,106,000
2063-004-024	158.15	part of \$4,106,000
	160.35	part of \$4,106,000
Total APNS=3	Total Acres=525.60	

Agenda Item X
MRCA
2/6/13

- Subject 3 parcels (525 acres)
- SMMC MRCA Property
- Other Public Land





GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

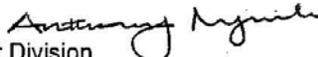
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: LD-4

February 21, 2013

TO: Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator
Department of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Anthony E. Nyivih 
Land Development Division
Department of Public Works

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY'S REQUEST FOR A NEW ACQUISITION PROJECTS IN THE LATIGO CANYON ROAD AND KANAN ROAD AREAS

As requested, we reviewed the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's list of proposed acquisition projects in the Latigo Canyon Road and Kanan Road (at this location Kanan Dume Road is called Kanan Road) areas as it relates to construction of any highway depicted on the County of Los Angeles Highway Plan and impacts to the Solid Waste Management System in the County of Los Angeles. The following are our comments:

- (a) Thirty-one (31) parcels in Escondido Canyon with an existing road network and paved access both from Latigo Canyon Road and from Escondido Canyon Drive via Latigo Canyon Road in the Santa Monica Mountains:
1. All 31 parcels do not impact County highways.
 2. Assessor Parcels Nos. 4461-001-011, 4461-034-001, 44461-035-004, and 44461-035-004 front Latigo Canyon Road, a local street with an existing 60 feet of road right of way, and require no additional right-of-way dedication.
 3. Assessor Parcel No. 4461-034-001 fronts Escondido Drive, a local street with an existing 30 feet of road right of way, and requires 15 feet of additional right-of-way dedication plus additional slope easement along the property frontage on Escondido Drive.
 4. The proposed acquisitions would not involve nor affect any existing or potential landfill sites or access thereto.

(b) Three (3) parcels at Kanan Road in Agoura Hills:

1. Assessor Parcel No. 2063-004-023 fronts Kanan Road, a major highway on the Los Angeles County Highway Plan with an existing 100 feet of road right of way. In addition to the existing road right of way, there is an existing storm drain easement and slope easement along the property on Kanan Road that shall remain.
2. Assessor Parcel Nos. 2063-004-024 and 2063-004-025 do not impact County highways.
3. The proposed acquisitions would not involve nor affect any existing or potential landfill sites or access thereto.

If you have any questions on highway and road impacts, please contact Steve Burger of Public Works' Land Development Division at (626) 458-4943 or sburger@dpw.lacounty.gov. For Solid Waste Management System questions, please contact Emiko Thompson of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division at (626) 458-3521 or ethompson@dpw.lacounty.gov.

HW:tb

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Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

February 21, 2013

TO: Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator
Regional Park and Open Space District

FROM: Mark Herwick, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner
Land Development Coordinating Center

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF PARCELS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ESCONDIDO CANYON AND AGOURA FOR DETERMINATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND/OR AREA PLANS.

The Department of Regional Planning has reviewed your request for a determination of consistency with the General Plan and/or Area Plans for parcels in unincorporated areas of Escondido Canyon and Agoura located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is proposing to acquire thirty-four parcels of land in these areas and include the acquisition as an amendment to its Initial Work Program that will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Thirty-one of the subject parcels are in Escondido Canyon located within the Malibu Coastal Zone and regulated by the Malibu Local Coastal Plan (Coastal Plan). Three of the subject parcels are in unincorporated Agoura located within the Santa Monica Mountains North Area and regulated by the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan (North Area Plan). The attached list of parcels proposed for acquisition identifies the Coastal Plan and the North Area Plan land use plan designations; respective zoning; presence in a Sensitive Environmental Resource Area (SERA), Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), existing or proposed Significant Ecological Area (SEA); and any pending cases.

The land use designation for the thirty-one parcels in Escondido Canyon is "16 – Low-Intensity Visitor Serving Commercial" which is characterized by large open space areas with limited building coverage such as golf courses, summer camps, equestrian facilities, and recreational vehicle parks. The land use designation for the three parcels in unincorporated Agoura is "N20–Mountain Lands 20" which allows one dwelling unit per twenty acres.

The zoning for the thirty-one parcels in Escondido Canyon is R-R-1 "Resort and Recreation" with a one-acre minimum required area. The three parcels in

unincorporated Agoura are zoned A-1-20 "Light Agriculture" with a twenty-acre minimum required area. The three parcels in unincorporated Agoura are also located within the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Community Standards District (CSD), which implements the goals and policies of the North Area Plan.

The Los Angeles County General Plan is being updated and is scheduled for adoption in 2014. The SEA Update Program, part of the General Plan update, includes the proposed Santa Monica Mountains SEA. All thirty-four of the subject parcels in Escondido Canyon and unincorporated Agoura are in the proposed Santa Monica Mountains SEA. When the Santa Monica Mountains SEA is approved, development of the parcels within the SEA may be subject to applicable entitlement processes.

The acquisition of these parcels for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Initial Work Program is consistent with the goals and policies of the Coastal Plan and the North Area Plan. The Department of Regional Planning has no objection to the proposed action.

County Counsel has been consulted regarding this information being provided to you.

Please contact me at (213) 974-6470 or mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov with any questions that you may have.

Attachment: Land Use and Zoning of Proposed Parcels for Acquisition by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

MH:vi

Land Use and Zoning of Proposed Parcels for Acquisition by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Coastal Plan (Escondido Canyon parcels)

APN	Land Use	Zoning	SERA	ESHA	Existing SEA	Proposed SEA	Pending Cases
4461-035-001	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-035-004	16	R-R-1	No	No	No	Yes	None
4461-035-005	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-019	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-020	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-021	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-022	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-023	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-024	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-025	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-026	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-027	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-028	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-029	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-030	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-031	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-036-032	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-033	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-034	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-036	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-037	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-038	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-039	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-040	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-041	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-042	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-043	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-036-044	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
4461-001-011	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4465-004-021	16	R-R-1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	None
4461-034-001	16	R-R-1	Yes	No	No	Yes	None
North Area Plan (unincorporated Agoura parcels)							
2063-004-025	N20	A-1-20	No	No	No	Yes	None
2063-004-024	N20	A-1-20	No	No	No	Yes	None
2063-004-023	N20	A-1-20	No	No	No	Yes	None